The monthly magazine of Toc H
7p July 1973

POINT THREE

POINT THREE

July 1973

Editor: Ken Prideaux-Brune
Associate Editor: Huw Gibbs
Designer: Michael F Hill MSTD

Toc H members accept a four-fold commitment:

1 To build friendships across the barriers that divide man from man

2 To give personal service.

3 To find their own convictions while always being willing to listen to the views of others.

4 To work for the building of that better world which has been called the Kingdom of God.

This magazine, which acts as a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world in which we live, takes its title from the third of these Four Points—to think fairly.

On the cover:

Proof, if proof were needed, that no barrier exists between the young and the not so young when the need is carefully explained. One of the girls from Wymondham School who helped at the largest Mini-Handi dance yet–held at the University of East Anglia at the end of March. More pictures of this event, which was organised by Norwich District, appear on pages 130 and 131.

Photo: PSB Photographic Ltd

Point Three is available from Toc H Publications Department, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Buckinghamshire HP22 6BT (Tel: 3911). Single copies 7p; 10 or more copies sent to the same address 6p each.

Letters and articles are welcomed and should be addressed to the Toc H Editorial Office, 42 Crutched Friars, London EC3N 2AL (Tel: 01-709 0472). Opinions expressed are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement.

Advertising: Display and classified advertisements are included in this magazine. Full rates and data can be obtained from the editorial office.

VIEWPOINT

Two nations

'The greatest of evils and the worst of crimes is poverty,' wrote Bernard Shaw in the preface to *Major Barbara*. That was in 1907. We all know that things have changed since then. The 'two nations' of Victorian England have given way to the benefits (if you'll excuse the pun) of the Welfare State. If people are poor today it's their own fault, isn't it? They are either workshy or inadequate.

A brief look at the facts of modern Britain, however, is enough to dispel such comforting illusions. Eighty-four per cent of the nation's wealth is concentrated in the hands of just seven per cent of the population. Ten per cent of the working population get more than £58 per week; four million workers get less than £20 per week. There are eight million old age pensioners, many of them living alone, uncared for and on the breadline. The 'greatest of evils' is still very much with us; and despite the progress made during the 20th century we are still 'two nations'.

The Guardian's campaign to raise the wages of black workers employed by British companies in South Africa has deserved the support it has won. But a similar campaign is needed right here in Britain on behalf of those–and they number millions–who are paid little more than starvation wages.

I have before me as I write a 'shock issue' of the *Daily Mirror* on 'Divided Britain', published in the middle of April. It gives the stark facts of poverty but it also clothes them in the flesh and blood of individual people.

People like Edward Ramsey, aged 79, living in a one up, one down terrace house in Leeds, and trying to live on £8.55 a week, pension and supplementary benefit. 'I was in the First World War, in the 13th Hussars in France and Mesopotamia,' he is quoted as saying. 'If they had told me then that this is what it would be like in 60 years' time, I wouldn't have believed them.'

People like George and Doreen Hutley and their three young children, for whom a holiday is a morning spent in the park half a mile from their home in Lambeth, London. George brings home just £21 a week and there's not enough left over even to buy a bottle of brown ale. For the Hutley's a holiday on the Costa Brava is as far from reality as a trip to the moon.

'The rich have become richer and the poor have become poorer; and the vessel of state is driven between the Scylla and Charybdis of anarchy and despotism.' That was Shelley, writing at the beginning of the 19th century. And the horrifying thing is that the gap between the have's and the have-not's, between those at whom the enticing advertisements in the colour supplements are aimed, and those who live in squalid, overcrowded homes, clothe their families with a struggle and feed them largely on potatoes and bread, gets steadily wider.

Successive post-war governments have totally failed to tackle the problem of poverty; if indeed they have tried to do so. Politicians and press preach to us about the twin evils of inflation and strikes. Myths about 'welfare scroungers' have become part of our folklore. But the underlying problems of inequality, of 'Divided Britain' and the widening gap between the have's and the have-not's, is scarcely even recognised.

What has all this to do with Toc H? What is a political diatribe of this kind doing in the pages of our Movement's magazine? Simply this. Toc H members are called on to 'love widely', to 'lessen . . . the prejudices which divide men' and to 'see the needs of others as their own'. We are called on to 'work for a better world' and to play our part in the building of the Kingdom of God. The scandal of poverty in the midst of luxury should surely arouse in us the anger of the Christ who cast the money-changers from the temple.

K P-B

Design donated by Fulcrum

Organisers
NORTH BUCKS DISTRICT OF TOC H

Campaign Office
12 Market Square, Buckingham MK18 1N[illegible]
Telephone: Buckingham 2301

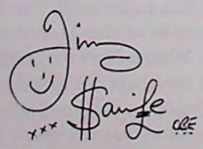
Bankers
Barclays Bank Ltd.
11 Market Square, Buckingham MK18 1[illegible]

Stoke Mandeville Hospital—two in one and the world's finest paraplegic unit. With that cheerful type of patient there is much scope for us voluntary helpers and this is where Toc H can do a great service.

A lot of patients are long/stay and busy and bustling though the hospital is, boredom is a natural if you are in for anything from two to five years. Space and money are always in short supply, so I got the idea of raising a few quid to build a lounge decorated 'à la Savoy Hotel', where our wheelchair friends can entertain their relations and friends, plus simple, low level tea making facilities. For, imagine a young housewife, a road accident and a Stoke Mandeville 'guest' for several years and not able to have a little kitchen of her own to boil water and make a cuppa. Simple things but vital to peace of mind.

So, if Toc H can help me in this deal, what can I say ! Nothing—except I'm sure God will be well pleased with us—plus our patients here.

Love



Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

Five seconds to oblivion

Huw Gibbs

This is an appeal written by Jimmy Savile, between ward visits at the Stoke Mandeville Spinal Unit. The challenge was made privately to me some months ago and now the project has been given approval. This is a supremely worthwhile project and will improve the stock of Toc H and its reputation when the job is done.

Doctors and patients from all over the world go to this famous hospital. Every day somebody passes through the doors totally paralysed and often suffering from terrible secondary injuries. Accidents like these have no respect for social status. Sportsmen, housewives, farmers, builders and politicians have all suddenly been struck down. By far the majority today are motoring accidents. But in recent months some young soldiers, gunned down in the streets of Belfast, have become patients.

The challenge has been accepted by North Bucks District of Toc H and the Buckingham branch has set up a campaign office at 12 Market Square, Buckingham MK18 1NR. Appeal letters are being sent to branches in the District and the most immediate news is the formation of a new group in Aylesbury which has already raised over £300, and set its target at £1000. Campaign planning includes an appeal to several other communities around Aylesbury where no Toc H groups exist at the moment. But any branch can join the campaign. All you have to do is confirm your intention to the campaign office and full details will be sent by return.

This is not a national project. But obviously if every branch gets off the ground with the same momentum as Aylesbury then it could be the greatest fund raising success that Toc H has had since the Etembeni appeal.

Buckingham has banked their own £50 donation and reserved £25 to cover administration. Other branches in the area are planning schemes.

When the lounge is built, and plans are being prepared now, it will be called 'the Jimmy Savile Toc H lounge'.

Scotland has said 'put an article in our bulletin *Scot-Toc*'. A steady stream of information is promised through a campaign newsletter entitled 'ON TARGET'. Branches will be assisted with press campaigns and fund raising ideas likely to capture people's imagination.

The task is not impossible. All we need to raise is £3500. Toc H has promised to match pound for pound up to that sum. After that the lounge could be started. It could be completed before the end of the summer. There's a challenge which you cannot neglect.

Let's show everybody that when the chips are down and life is at stake–Toc H can still move fast as a national concern.

While you have been reading this another case has passed through those doors.

Tomorrow it could be somebody you know.

Tomorrow it could be you.

At a party for children of the staff of Stoke Mandeville Hospital Jimmy Savile, breaking from his normal duties there, leads the dance.

Photo: Roy Palmer

Misterton Hall welcomes the elderly

Ted Curry

In June 1969 Toc H in Northampton took a party of about 60 old, infirm and handicapped people to Lutterworth for the annual outing; the convoy of cars was, as usual. led by the Mayor and Mayoress of Northampton. A splendid tea had been organised by local members and it was clear that the goodwill and fellowship made this event an outstanding success for guests and helpers alike.

With the members of Toc H catering for the party were Mr and Mrs Craven, the new owners of Misterton Hall, a large property in extensive grounds a mile or so from Lutterworth. After tea Mr and Mrs Craven invited some of the party to see the grounds before returning to Northampton, and a number of drivers took their passengers to the Hall for this unexpected 'extra'.

Mr and Mrs Craven have since admitted that as newcomers to the Hall they were somewhat at a loss to know how they could best use the grounds to good advantage and this happy party from Northampton provided the inspiration they were seeking–they would open the grounds to similar parties of elderly and handicapped folk from the surrounding towns and villages.

The previous owners of the Hall had allowed the grounds to become rather run-down and clearly redevelopment was necessary to make the grounds attractive to such parties. A lot of time and trouble has been spent in doing just this–reconstructing the lake which involved the dredging of no less than 1000 tons of silt and reeds, forming islands for the breeding of wild life, and making a new hard-surface track around the lake. Five years ago there were only three pairs of mallard on the lake. This number has been increased by breeding and acquiring additional stock, including various breeds of ducks, moorhens and Canada geese, till there are now more than 200, no doubt encouraged by being fed with grain and stale bread from time to time. There are also a number of peacocks and other uncommon birds cared for by Mrs Craven.

The most notable development, however, is the erection of the Rutland Room, near the entrance but standing apart from the house itself. The Rutland Room is comfortably furnished to accommodate 50 people for tea or other purposes, and there is a large modern kitchen with adequate facilities for the preparation of meals, and a serving hatch to the main room. A fireplace for an open log fire has been included and the whole is a most attractive building all on one level and built with the needs of handicapped folk in mind. The Rutland Room has now been well used for this purpose for a couple of years and well over 3500 visitors have enjoyed the amenities–not only for summer outings but also in the winter and spring.

As the redevelopment proceeded Mr and Mrs Craven did not forget that the inspiration came originally from a party brought by Toc H in Northampton, but the problem was how to renew the contact. Recalling that the Mayor and Mayoress of Northampton had been with the party it was a happy thought to seek the help of the Mayor's Serjeant, who was able to pass on the message to the branch secretary. The upshot was that another party of handicapped folk and their helpers was organised for a Saturday in March, when two coaches, one fitted with a lift for wheeled chairs, were used to convey about 50 people to the Hall. The catering was successfully undertaken by members of the women's branch. And there was a blazing log fire to welcome the guests!

Arrangements have been made for Age Concern in Leicestershire to control the booking for the Rutland Room and visits to the Misterton estate, and they also provide volunteers to serve as host and hostess, whose task is to welcome the guests and keep an eye on their comfort. Indeed, they will provide tea and biscuits if required to do so, but many of the visiting groups prefer to do their own catering. Branches of Toc H and other interested groups should contact Mr H M Burton, Executive Officer of Age Concern, at 6 St Martin's, Leicester, in order to arrange to bring a party to Misterton.

The Pharisee's Late Lament

I've poured out pious platitudinous prayers
And heaped on God self-centred worldly cares:
I did not pause to find if He
Had anything to say to me.

Such prayers were an expression of my greed:
I supplicated God for every need;
Because of this I failed to see
What He Himself might need of me.

Of all my talents I was falsely proud
And thanked my God that I was so endowed:
I foolishly forgot that He
For His investment gave them me.

I have no further wish to gather wealth,
Nor need I fret about my state of health:
As long as I serve God, then He
Will surely take good care of me.

Some men I treated with sublime contempt;
Others I pitied: yet I never dreamt
The time would come when I should see
How sadly God must pity me.

No longer could I other men despise
If only I could see them through God's eyes:
To see them thus required of me
The virtue of humility.

The life of Jesus showed me God's design
That all men are potentially divine,
If only they will strive to be
Caring and loving as was He.

So now in silence let me contemplate
That God is Love, and on this meditate:
Then only I begin to see
This is what prayer is meant to be:

Prayer is to study and to find God's plan
For me and also every other man:
We give ourselves to Him, and He
Works in this world through you and me.

Dear God, if I've been boring You to tears,
Forgive me now, and in my future years
I can but hope that You'll agree
Kindly to find some use for me.

Charles Potts

Alan Daniels

A welcome to Alan Daniels, Yorkshire Area Chairman, who joined the Northern Regional staff in May. Alan joined Toc H in 1961 and has held office at branch, District and Area level. He tells us that he has previously worked as a clerk, a representative selling cars and soap ('not at the same time!'), a banker and an office manager for a finance company. His hobbies include model-making and gardening. Alan is aged 39, married with three children, a girl aged 13 and boys aged eight and four. He sees joining the full time staff as an 'opportunity to pass on to others, both members and non members, the excitement and pleasure which I have found in Toc H'. He will probably be based west of the Pennines.

Alan Daniels (centre) pictured with Harry Brier (left) and Ralph Thorne at last year's Central Council weekend. Photo: Cameracraft

Welcome Point

The following branch was recognised by the Central Executive at its May meeting:

Wiggenhall St Germans (j).

The following branches elected new members during May:

5—Somerton (j).

4—Exmouth (w), Glenrothes (j).

3—Sandown (j).

2—Chalfonts (m), Cosby (w), Deeside (w), Felixstowe (w), High Brooms (w), Jedburgh (m), Kidsgrove (w), Mablethorpe (j), Mansfield (w), Milford on Sea (j), Northern Area, Rochdale (m), Surrey, S & W London Area.

1—Bexhill on Sea (j), Bideford (m), Buckingham (m), Budleigh Salterton (m), Burraton (w), Central, Chard (m), Clacton on Sea (m), Clevedon (j), Coleorton (m), Downend (w), East Midlands Area, Grainthorpe (j), Looe (m), Lymington (j), Margate (w), Melrose (j), Minster in Sheppey (w), Oswestry (m), Paignton (m), Rushden (m), Sanderstead (m), Scottish Area ,Shelthorpe (m), Skegness (w), Spotland (w), Syston (j), Tywardreath (j).

We extend a warm welcome to the 70 new members.

UP FOR THE CUP!

Arthur Smith describes some of the highlights of the 21 years of hospital football commentaries in Norwich, culminating in a commentary on the League Cup Final at Wembley

Looking down on the Norwich City ground from the commentary point provided by the Norwich Building Trades Federation.

Twenty-one years ago Sprowston branch had reached that important item on its agenda, 'Any other business'. This item belonged almost exclusively to 'Kipper' Grenville ('Kipper' because he hailed from Yarmouth) and true to form he sounded forth! As usual, we suffered 'Kipper' gladly–not because he uttered pearls of wisdom but because he was lovable in an abrasive sort of way, and always keen to get things done.

'Why,' he demanded, 'can't we do what Norwich branch used to do; when each member who watched Norwich City took along with him a couple of fans from the Institution for the Blind and gave them a running commentary of the match? (I ought to explain that at that time Sprowston, a suburb of Norwich, had a branch which rode the crest of a wave, though Norwich, the parent branch was, sadly, on the decline).

It so happened that the previous week a Sunday paper had carried a tiny paragraph about a police officer at Portsmouth who had gone one better and given a commentary to patients in Portsmouth hospitals by using a telephone link.

When I told the meeting this I found myself landed with the job of finding out if a similar scheme would be possible in Norwich and 'Kipper', who worked for the post office, agreed to put in a little research at his end.

From this tiny beginning was born the Norwich Hospitals Sports Commentary Service. As an act of faith we launched out into the deep, and what a catch came into our net! Encouragement from the hospital management, practical help from the Post Office, permission to proceed from the football club, a wonderful response to a collection for funds, and technical advice from Willmotts, a local radio store all added up to one thing–we were in business! Everything except a vital item–commentators; but there was no lack of volunteers. The inevitable committee was formed, with our skipper, Ken Clare, as chairman, Fred Orvice as treasurer, and me as secretary.

We borrowed a tape recorder and gave every volunteer commentator a chance. A letter in the local paper attracted talent from outside Toc H. 'Inky' Ingram Johnson who had done tennis commentaries in India, Bob Brister who

had compered sports events such as speedboat racing, Peter Roberts, then a sub editor of the Norfolk News Company, were but a few of those to respond.

Within a couple of months we had no less than four four-member teams which covered all first and reserve team home matches. However, we found that with four teams the gaps between duty were too long and so we dropped to three teams and eventually to two. Our vantage point for the commentary was a tiny window cut in the score board with a minute cabin in which to work. At first we served just the local hospitals and the Institution for the Blind but soon had requests from hospitals at Attleborough and Kelling, and later from Bishop Herbert House for the disabled, which we gladly met.

It was Portsmouth who had started us off, but Cardiff was to give us another idea, that of linking up away matches by trunk line. So Cardiff and Norwich hospitals heard the same commentary of a cup match at Carrow Road. Soon we were linking up and sending our commentaries to places as far afield as Bristol, Southampton, Lincoln, Nottingham and Manchester.

By this time the Service had grown up and was no longer dependent on Sprowston Toc H, though it still provided the secretary, treasurer, and a core of commentators, which included the branch padre, Aubrey Aitken, who was without peer in this work and is now President, and a beloved Bishop of Lynn.

It is difficult to crowd into one short article all the happenings of two decades, which include a brief flirtation with County cricket, the use of our network for relaying chapel services, a Christmas pantomime, and even a commentary on the opening of an operating theatre by Her Majesty The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.

Nor can every commentator be listed–a list which would embrace all major aspects of our fair city: men from Colmans, Caleys, Jarrolds, Norwich Union, teachers, local government–and even two from Maddermarket Theatre. Len Bailey emigrated to New Zealand but started a commentary scheme there.

Times have changed. We now have a much better vantage point. 'Kipper' Grenville died a week or so before 'Tubby'. After 18 years Cyril Robinson, one of our Toc H 'originals', has taken over from me as secretary and has just brought about the crowning achievement–a commentary from the holy of holies–Wembley Stadium itself–on the occasion of the League Cup final between Norwich and Tottenham–canary versus cockerel. With typical unselfishness Cyril stood down to enable me to lead a special 4-man team to give a commentary to our good friends and staunch supporters, the men of the Norwich Social Centre for the Blind and, of course, to the thousand or more 'supporters'. Plans were carefully laid to avoid any forseen hitches. Three commentators travelled in a dormobile kindly loaned for the occasion (and driven, incidentally, by a member of Costessey branch) with a set of portable equipment. Our fourth commentator, Arthur Brazzell, went by coach with a duplicate set of equipment. At Wembley we went by lift and gantry catwalk to the commentary gallery. We took up our allotted positions, located our telephone wires, plugged in, and tested our equipment as far as possible, until our lines to Norwich were linked up at 3 pm. Then calamity! A call to two Norwich hospitals revealed that nothing was coming through. Here the Wembley engineers were kindness itself and rectified a fault at the Norwich end. We breathed again and went out 'live' at 3.15 in good time for the kick-off at 3.30. From then on reception was near perfect.

What a thrilling experience. We gave that mike everything we had–enthusiasm, pride, loyalty–yet never forgetting to 'think fairly'. The slick, sophisticated, but oh-so-bored professionals were faintly patronising, but they needn't have been sorry for us. To them it was just another rather dull chore: to us, the experience of a lifetime. A pity that the Canaries lost, but for us . . . what a coming of age!

Letters

Strong Stuff

As a Toc H member of some 25 years' standing I hope to answer WFM Read's misgivings on his fellow members (May issue). Jesus Christ was supposed to be 'King of the Jews' but we know him as a God of Love and his example was certainly not reserved for the Jews alone.

All my life I have been–I hope–an 'inclusive' rather than an 'exclusive' Christian. The latter brand says you must achieve such and such a standard before you join our church youth club, communicants' guild or what have you. The former believes that by encouragement and participation our fellows can be brought nearer to Christ–which is his wish.

The fellowship we offer in Toc H is not doctrinaire, is not to be expressed as a legal contract but a fulfilment of Christian purpose. Self-assessment, I was taught, is all important in Toc H. This I take to cover not only finance but the whole justification for becoming and remaining a member. I hope my concept helps our friend; I am sure others may put it better, but I had to try.

Dudley Osmond Smith
Havant, Hants

In reply to W Read (May issue), surely the main factor which makes Toc H different from other organisations which do similar charitable work is its Christian basis. The Movement has a sense of purpose and a mutual understanding which is usually lacking elsewhere. By joining such an organisation the non-Christian is clearly in agreement with the Christian ethic (doing 'His Will') and 'Christian' action, even if he is doing it from some other motive. We should welcome him to work with us, as his choice of Toc H, rather than any other group, is probably an expression of his willingness to learn about our motives.

Surely, then, we must retain our basis in Jesus Christ, not only for the success of the Movement, but for the sake of the non-Christian who wishes to find a true guide for his life. For our part, we must have faith to carry any project through to its logical conclusion–to reveal Christ Jesus working in us. Working within the framework of a Christian group is a great help in fulfilling both these aspects of our task as Christians.

Brian Taylor *Bristol*

Homes for the elderly

We in Sherborne branch also think that some of the money from the sale of 15 Trinity Square could be used to provide homes for elderly members, run on the lines of the Abbeyfield Homes. One of our oldest members, and her sister who is an Associate, have recently had to give up their home because it became too much for them, and we know from their personal comments what a joy it would have been to them to live in a home which belonged to Toc H.

Enid Shaw *Sherborne, Dorset*

Note: George Liddle, the Hon Treasurer, is looking into the feasibility of following up the many suggestions which have been made along these lines. He will be submitting a report to the Central Executive in due course. Details will appear in Point Three *as soon as possible. Meanwhile this correspondence is closed.*

Violence

In answer to John Forbes' letter in May: Chard may be in the wild and woolly west, but it is a branch of Toc H and thus naturally presupposes the Divine Spark in everyone. This Spark, like every latent talent inherited, awaits the climatic conditions or occasion which will trigger it off and which are essential for its development and fructification. This is the job of education in its true sense–to provide the environment necessary. The infant Mowgli was not entirely a figment of Kipling's imagination, but was based on fact.

B D Brown *Chard, Somerset*

The Bordon Company

Members of Toc H, some of whom are also members of that part of Toc H called the Bordon Company, have just completed a brief experience in communal living. The experience has been a mixture of all the things for which we think the Movement was created–fellowship, personal service to our neighbour and a striving to learn more about the Kingdom of God and the spirit of man in particular.

We are not going to attempt to communicate to you what we have gained from this experience, as it will have varied with each of us. However, we would like more members of our Movement to share in the stimulating discipline of the mind and will through the Bordon Company. We are concerned at the lack of personal discipline of the spirit in Western society, especially within our own culture, and also within the Movement of Toc H. If potential members of the Bordon Company should read this letter we suggest they get in touch with the headquarters padre of Toc H in London.

Paul Rogoff (*Birmingham*), Ray Fabes (*Peterborough*), Judy Auton (*London*), Betty Blower (*Leamington Spa*), Lesley Hawes (*Bristol*), Huw Gibbs (*Aylesbury*), Sue McWilliam (*Stoke Mandeville*), John Callf (*Broadway*), Joyce Reynolds (*Radlett*), Adrian Dudman (*Durham*), Ralph Thorne (*Merseyside*), Margery Knight (*Barnet*), Stella Freeston (*Knockholt*), Bill Barnes (*Middlesbrough*), Rickie Lowe (*Bristol*), Sue Cumming (*Leicester*), M Buttrey (*Newcastle, Staffs*), Donald Lockhart (*Berkhamsted*), Bob Knight (*Barnet*).

THE BORDON COMPANY

John Calff

In 1956, several members of the Central Executive found that they had a similar concern about the future of the Movement. A second World War separated us from the miraculous days when–who can doubt it?–ordinary men and women had been guided by God to build Toc H in all parts of the world. In the Main Resolution they had pledged themselves 'to listen now and always for the voice of God'. Now, in 1956, the feeling was that we were indeed 'playing it by ear', but our ears were anything but attuned to the voice of God; in fact we seemed to have lost the habit of listening except to one another. The Movement itself was not to blame; the trouble lay in our own unreadiness.

Those Central Executive members, plus a few others who were known to be of a like mind, met informally and quite unofficially for a weekend in the retreat centre at Bordon in Hampshire. Most of that dozen men, especially the free-churchmen among them, were completely new to any practice of silence and meditation, but far from feeling repressed they found it a great liberation of the spirit. All present decided to continue to meet in London and to share with other members the convictions that were being borne in upon them.

For want of some form of identification they decided to call themselves the Bordon Company, and they sent out an invitation to members and friends anywhere, men or women, who would be willing to join them in deepening their discipleship by a daily practice of prayer, of Bible reading, of quiet meditation and by seeking fresh inspiration for action. In this way the whole of Toc H would be lifted up to God in prayer.

It was never intended that the Bordon Company should treat itself as an élite, a kind of inner Toc H membership. Rather it was to work as an anonymous company of people, not regarding themselves as the spiritual giants of Toc H but as those who knew themselves to be in need of all the help they could get. One form of mutual encouragement was that periodically a letter, written anonymously by someone in the Company, would be circulated to all. It would contain a simple sharing of thoughts and experiences along the way.

Over the next few years some two or three hundred members, belonging to various denominations or to none, joined the Company. Each year a retreat or quiet weekend was held, and occasionally a quiet day was convened in some reasonably accessible part of the country. One quiet weekend went so far off track as to become positively deafening! But it served a purpose nonetheless.

People today are apt to demand evidence of results and may ask what has been the outcome of all this Bordon Company activity. Hundreds of Toc H men and women can testify that commitment to the Bordon Rule has made a total difference to their spiritual life by helping them to discover the Christian contribution and that of other faiths.

How has it helped Toc H? Some of us sincerely believe that the decisive events of the late1950's owed much to the private prayers of the unknown company: Dor Knap, the move of headquarters to Tower Hill, and much else besides.

Of recent years it had begun to appear as if the Bordon Company had lost its first fine careless rapture and was becoming a static part of the Toc H set-up. Today, praise be, a younger generation of Toc H members has leapt in to take up the initiative from those who are now veterans and who are only too delighted to stand back. How vitally important, how divinely significant, that this tide of the Spirit should be quickening younger members, many of them on the staff, just at the time when the Movement must learn good stewardship of an awesome amount of money and when it must make its way onward without the physical presence of the Founder Padre.

Tricky times may lie ahead for the Toc H Family, but if by means of the Bordon Company or by other agencies we can take time to be quiet and to listen for the voice of God, He will draw near to us, and in His Light we will see light.

¶The paragraph signs in *Point Three* each month suggest subjects for intercession to members of the Bordon Company.

Stars in their eyes

Top left: Ted Booty, one of the Toc H members who attended the dance as organisers. Ted brought a coach load of handicapped people with him.

Below left, bottom, top right: Toc H and the Vauxhall Centre for the Handicapped recruited 200 volunteers, many from local schools and organisations.

Saturday night March 31 and something unique was about to happen at the University of East Anglia. Norwich had never seen anything like it before. Passers by stopped, stared, smiled and showed visible relief that Toc H lived up to its boast of 'getting things done'. Fleets of coaches and ambulances disgorged 100 people of all ages and with all disabilities. The Norwich District Mini-Handi was about to begin. The following day local newspapers shared the happy normal atmosphere of the dance; 'Wheelchairs no handicap here', they said. Although Jimmy Savile was not able to be present himself he sent a tape-recorded message which was played during the evening.

Right: 15 uniformed Red Cross workers expertly organised an emergency room, complete with respiration equipment and standby ambulance. Others in 'civvies' acted as volunteers.

Bottom right: some of the Toc H ladies who dispensed tea and cakes to over 300 dancers.

Photos: PSB Photographic Ltd

The Toc H Prayer—8

'GALLANT and HIGH-HEARTED HAPPINESS'

Keith Beck

Words are capable of conjuring up mental pictures, and these words 'gallant and high-hearted happiness' always bring for me the picture of either St Francis of Assisi, God's minstrel, or of some paragon of mediaeval chivalry, a Christian knight. Perhaps it is because the very word 'gallant' is redolent of the Knights of the Round Table, and because it has more than one meaning.

Gallant is usually used to describe bravery or heroism in time of stress. It comes as a healthy reminder that Toc H is no 'primrose path' of conformity to whatever society decrees, but rather a way of confrontation with a Christ-denying world. The Main Resolution pledges us 'to fight at all costs for the setting up of His Kingdom upon Earth' and also to do God's will 'reckoning nothing of the world's opinions'. To be a Christian–or to be ready 'to test the truth of the Christian faith and its relevance to everyday life'–is to invite opposition from all the vested interests of a society which is determined to preserve its selfishness. The least we can expect is to be despised or ridiculed; if we are merely ignored then we have failed miserably, and our light has long since gone out, however frequently we have lit our lamp.

There is, however, another meaning to this word, indicating someone very attentive to women–a 'ladies' man'. Originally this stemmed from Christian courtesy and concern for the 'weaker sex', and a championing of their cause. Womens' Lib does not materially alter this. Toc H needs to have a constant concern for the weak, for the despised, for the oppressed; even though such concern invites ridicule from those who are tough and clad in the armour of brutality, greed and self-love.

'High-hearted' echoes the words which are among the oldest used in Christian worship–'Lift up your hearts–we lift them up to the Lord'. It is only those who have their hearts lifted up in this way who can afford to be gallant or truly happy in this world. There is a great deal of difference between 'high-hearted' and 'empty headed', and there can be no place within Toc H for those who were once described as 'so heavenly minded that they are no earthly use!'

The source of all our life is to be found in what God has done in Christ, and it is in praise and thanksgiving that we are best reminded of this. Hymn singing has never been a prominent feature of our life as a family, except when we have crowded some church or cathedral for a Toc H service; but using our voices in song used to be quite common. Alas, this seems to have ceased–we all caught laryngitis at some time in the 1950s! How ironical it is, that in an age when youth sings unselfconsciously (and sometimes even in tune) in all manner of public places, we have decided that such behaviour is frivolous or artificial. Is this an indication that we have taken ourselves far too seriously?–more seriously, I am sure, than God takes us! May it also be a consequence of a tendency to concentrate on service, and to place less emphasis on the equal priority of our commitment to fellowship?

'All work and no play . . .' all of us can complete the saying, and no prizes are offered for doing so! It is a lesson that needs to be learnt by some branches and members, whose commitment to jobs or committees has deprived them of the ability to relax and enjoy life. About 20 years ago there was a striking poster which appeared on hoardings all over the country: it showed a family, Mum, Dad, boy and girl (all rather middle-class!) walking towards a church, and bore the words, 'the family that prays together, stays together'. This indeed may be true: it certainly ought to be true of Christian family life. But is it the whole truth? On reflection, I would have a second poster showing the same family hiking, swimming, sailing a boat or playing tennis, with the words, 'the family that plays together, stays together'.

If Toc H is to be true to its origins, it will never cease to 'pray together', and will discover the source of 'high-hearted happiness' in the lifting up of hearts to the Lord. If Toc H is to be true to its intention to offer opportunities 'to test the relevance of the Christian faith to everyday life', it must ensure that it also 'plays together'. Life may not be 'all beer and skittles', but healthy relaxation and enjoyment are essential for the good health of the individual and of Toc H.

NEWSPOINT

THE MITCHELLS COME HOME

John Ostler

My friend, Mrs Montgomery, had a special reason for asking if we have a branch in Indianapolis, USA. Could we arrange for a member in Indianapolis to visit Ian Mitchell, a former pupil of hers? Ian had written to his former teacher, hoping that in this way he would contact someone who would write once in a while giving him news of his home town of Musselburgh. It was the old story that we know so well. Ian Mitchell, although still a relatively young man of 35, had become a chronic invalid, was lonely and had few friends in what had become a strange land. He had with him his mother and young nephew but this only added to his sense of responsibility and he was sensitive to the fact that, owing to his illness, it was a responsibility that he was unable to carry. All he asked was a pen friend. I made a report to our local branch in Prestonpans. Enquiries were made through Headquarters. Unfortunately we had no branches in the USA. The ball was back in our own court–were we still in the game?

It was a challenge which looked far too big for our small branch. Talking led to a suggestion that Toc H Scotland should be asked to help. More talking and another suggestion, that Ian Mitchell be brought home to Scotland. We found that he had retained his British citizenship so the suggestion seemed eminently reasonable. A sick man here in Scotland seemed an easier proposition to deal with than a sick man 5000 miles away in a foreign land. Here he could get the medical and surgical care that he needed and could not pay for in America. We knew how it could be done. It is part of the Toc H drill. Get other people involved; get advice; cost the job and compare what was necessary with what was possible. The cost–a minimum of £400–could be met by a joint effort by every branch in Scotland.

Settled in to their new home. The Mitchell family with (left) Mrs Montgomery.

The project now had shape and the details had been sketched in. It now had to be presented to the Scottish National Conference. This was done and the response was immediate. All the branches would help. Everyone in our branch at Prestonpans became a job master. Social Clubs in Prestonpans and Musselburgh were approached. They were more than generous. Our many friends (and we did not know beforehand just how many we had) helped by running raffles, giving donations and in other ways. So many things were done by so many people that the project which had seemed so daunting to begin with was on the way to being completed by November of last year. The Scottish branches had responded magnificently. The target had been surpassed–the Mitchell family were home before the month was out. Toc H had still to find a house and furnish a home for them. This was the challenge we had accepted. How does one give thanks to so many friends who were so eager to help?

First the Councillors of Musselburgh Town Council who were willing and able to place the family on the list of those in special need. All those who provided the furnishing for the home. To those of us who were lucky enough to witness what was given, it seemed like a fairy tale.

Ian was admitted to the Western General Hospital, Edinburgh, during the month of December. The best medical knowledge and surgical care was made available to him at no cost to himself. The welfare state with all its faults does not 'pass by on the other side of the road!' The Mitchell family have now settled into their new home. Ian is able to get about by himself and is looking forward to finding some suitable form of work.

Volunteers wanted

More male volunteers are urgently wanted for the first ever Toc H project in Germany–a playscheme for children of British servicemen run in conjunction with the Toc H Services' Club in Paderborn. This three week project–August 1-20–will be particularly valuable at a time when many servicemen are being posted to Northern Ireland, leaving their families on their own in Germany. If you can help phone Wally Walton (01-709 0472) or write to him at 41 Trinity Square, London EC3N 4DJ.

CLAYTON VOLUNTEERS at WARDEN MANOR

A residential briefing weekend for those going to America this summer under the Clayton Volunteer scheme was held at Warden Manor. This popular holiday centre on the Isle of Sheppey, Kent, has recently become available for weekend conferences out of the holiday season and it provided a friendly and comfortable atmosphere in which the new volunteers could learn from the experiences of those who went last year.

In all, 25 Clayton Volunteers will be going to America this year–most of them to work on children's playschemes of various kinds. One new assignment this year is with the Brooklyn Museum, in New York, which runs several enterprising programmes for children during the summer. Last summer a group of children from Bedford-Stuyvesant, the neighbouring Black ghetto, participated in a programme designed to teach them something of their African heritage and by the end of the eight week programme had built a complete African village in the courtyard of the museum.

Thirty Winant Volunteers arrived from America on June 12. Volunteers are working on Toc H projects in Scotland, Hull, Bristol, Portsmouth, Croydon and Hackney, as well as on playschemes and similar projects run by other organisations.

The Winant and Clayton Volunteers Association has been wound up as a separate legal entity and the scheme is now legally as well as in practice under the austpices of Toc H.

Choir links with Cheshire Home

Further links were welded into the chain which binds Chippenham branch, Greathouse Cheshire Home, and the Treorchy Male Voice Choir when the Choir's conductor, John Cynan Jones paid his first visit to the room in the Cheshire Home which the Choir has adopted. He was in Chippenham to make final arrangements for the concert which the Choir is to give in aid of the Home on September 29.

This visit coincided with the purchase by Greathouse residents and Chippenham branch of a new cassette recorder for Irene Pereira, a resident of a Portuguese Cheshire Home who has spent many holidays at Greathouse. She finds writing difficult but has corresponded with Chippenham branch often by tape. But she wrote recently to say that her tape recorder was broken and that she could not afford a replacement. She is an outstanding linguist–she gave a vote of thanks in Welsh when the Treorchy Choir visited Greathouse last summer–and is keen to maintain her English. Members of the branch quickly agreed to find the money for a new machine, and residents of Greathouse insisted on making a substantial contribution to the cost themselves.

Mark extension opened

The new extension to Mark 5, Southampton, was opened in May in the presence of a distinguished gathering representing every facet of the city's life. Brigadier Dickson, Director of the Building Industry Youth Trust, which has contributed to new developments at several of the Marks, including Southampton, unveiled a plaque commemorating his Trust's support. Ken Prideaux-Brune, Editor of *Point Three* and Geoff Savill, chairman of the Mark management committee, also spoke briefly. The new extension, formed by the conversion of the old stable block, provides a meeting room and seven attractive single bedrooms.

Garlands for Stokoe's Boy's

John Orange,
Point Three Correspondent

Spalding Flower Parade once again provided an opportunity for two days of active fund raising on behalf of Toc H projects. West Pinchbeck branch created a magnificent floral masterpiece which was much admired by the 400,000 people who flocked from far and wide on this popular annual occasion. Toc H members from all parts of the British Isles and at least one from Australia presented themselves for identification at the South Lincs District tulip garland marquee where 85,000 individual tulip heads had been laboriously threaded on to string to make up about 27,500 Hawaiian style necklace garlands which sold at 10p a time to an eager crowd of purchasers. A coach load of supporters from Sunderland, fresh from their triumph at Wembley on the previous Saturday, demanded garlands in the red and white of 'Stokoe's boys' and willingly paid over the odds for them.

Project groups under the leadership of Hilary Geater and Ray Fabes made up an impressive looking work force who, in spite of an all out effort, were unable to keep up with the demand for floral souvenirs. Even so, a sum of around £275 was lodged in the bank to be used on behalf of the various projects now under consideration. One such project, which will take place in West Pinchbeck village during the late summer, is a camp for deprived children from Leicester and is a joint effort by the local branch and a Leicester unit under the guidance of the NSPCC.

World Chain of Light

This year's Chain starts in Wellington, New Zealand. A 24 hour vigil will also be maintained at All Hallows, from 9 pm on December 11 to 9 pm on December 12.

Tape for Israel

Ethel Buchanan

A Toc H Associate is allowed to go to The Weymouth Pavilion Theatre and record for the Hospital Broadcasting Service any show that is considered of interest to the hospital patients.

The Israeli Dancers and Musical Group were at the Pavilion recently and Keith Hi[illegible] went along and recorded some of their songs and musical numbers. As is usual, he asked their permission to use the tape in the hospitals and played it back to them. They were so impressed and delighted with this, that they asked him to send a tape to folk in Tel Aviv. This has been done.

The Hospital Broadcasting Service also has permission to record anything from the BBC programmes. The only stipulation being that after the tape has been used in hospital it must be rubbed out. A BBC official wrote to Toc H: 'it must be a pleasure to be in Weymouth Hospital'.

Mushrooms in Grantham

Jack Peatfield

There is a family of mushrooms which grow in our office parking lot each year. That in itself is not unusual. But for this family to emerge from the soil, it had to penetrate about three inches of asphalt paving. Such a display of single-minded purpose is unusual because we see so little of it in human beings. Yet all successful endeavours at either the human or the plant level have this type of single-mindedness.

One could draw other analogies between these mushrooms, or any plant life cycle, and a successful Toc H branch. For the mushroom, the spore must be healthy. In its initial formative stages, it must be able to withstand innumerable difficulties. For a branch to survive its ideas must be sound; it must be prepared to overcome indifference both within its ranks and without.

For the plant to grow it must have timeless entity–a fertile environment and proper nourishment–without which it would wither.

Toc H is timeless–it should also be ready to give a unique service that fills a special need with a capability inherent in its seed to enable it gradually to grow to full fruition.

Unfortunately, the analogies of a growing plant and some of man's endeavours stop at this point. Take our Grantham branch; it would appear that when we started this branch not so many years ago we only possessed the *desire* to succeed. The mushrooms grew through a layer of asphalt because they had the *will* to succeed. We are starting again with a new programme–and, I hope, the necessary will.

Clearing the way

Footpaths must be kept open and rights of way preserved. Modern man needs the chance of escaping from his brick and concrete surroundings into the open countryside where fresh air can still be breathed. That's the belief of members of Ryton, Co Durham, branch who have taken the lead in forming a 'pathfinders' group, whose members will walk the footpaths in the Ryton area. The public meeting to launch the campaign drew an unexpectedly large response and the branch hopes to extend the scheme along the Tyne Valley. Already the scheme has been the subject of a leading article in the *Hexam Courant*. 'We hope', says branch secretary C Ball, 'that this effort will inspire other branches throughout the country to keep public footpaths open'.

Mr D Williams (left), headmaster of St Francis School for handicapped children in Lincoln, accepts a 'possum' extended keyboard and typewriter from Valerie Rawding (centre), secretary of the new Lincoln group. Also present were Molly Howes, a member of the school staff, and Jimmy Cliffe, of the Toc H Midland Region staff. The typewriter is primarily for a boy who only has the use of his toes. The cost was £300, which was raised by the group in just four months.

Photo: Lincolnshire Chronicle

Lunch for Pensioners

Reg Collins

The proprietors of The Rancheros Restaurant, Bournemouth, have kindly agreed to give two old age pensioners a free lunch each Friday for a year. Bournemouth joint branch has been asked to nominate two people each week. Those who have so far been say how much they appreciate the kindly gesture and how nice it is to be able to have a good meal in delightful surroundings with convivial companionship.

District Quizz

The third annual Northampton District Quizz was held on April 28. Newcomers among this year's 13 entrants were Kettering branch and Wellingborough Grammar School. Winners were Wellingborough men's branch. Plans for next year's knock-out competitions are already in hand.

A branch of shopkeepers

If the members of Ashby-de-la-Zouch branch in Leicestershire ever decide to take seriously to the retail business Marks & Spencer will have to look to their laurels. Last year the branch obtained the use of an empty shop for a week and raised £390 for Staunton Harold Cheshire Home. This year the branch was faced with the expenditure of £450 for the roof of its branch premises. With the aid of a loan of £250 from Toc H Headquarters the work was done.

Then an empty shop again became available. £375 was raised in a week and the loan from Headquarters was paid off in just three months. That money is now available to another branch in need. And the success story doesn't end there. Among the branch's customers was a refugee family from Uganda who were enabled to furnish their new home very cheaply.

Helping India's beggars

Cochin branch, with the active support of the Mayor, has succeeded in stopping begging within the city limits, reports Hon Commissioner Justin Jesudasan in a recent letter. As a result of pressure from the branch the City Corporation has established a relief centre. Toc H members visit the centre and help to teach the beggars useful trades. On a similar theme Justin reports that the Cannanore group has given two sewing machines to a work centre for unemployed girls.

A new group has been formed at Salem and three other new starts are in prospect. 'Our greatest handicap,' writes Justin, 'has been the absence of a full time worker who could visit the units regularly and keep them from falling into laziness. But I also feel that a Movement like Toc H should be kept alive by the spirit of its members and not by someone else'.

In brief...

Contributions to the Tubby Clayton Memorial Fund had totalled £15,640 by the end of May.

There are still places for young blind people on the holiday at Great Yarmouth, September 8-15. Details: S E Regional Office (01-709 0472).

Kennington branch in London contributed £20 to the Family Purse last year–20 per cent up on the previous year.

Exmouth, Devon, women's branch initiated no less than four new members on April 24. And there's a probationer considering membership shortly.

Members of Downend women's branch in Bristol have been hard at work knitting boys' sweaters, baby clothes and mittens for the Church of England Children's Society.

Key figure in the formation of the 27-strong new women's branch in Alston, Cumberland, was Freda Lancaster. Formerly a member in Carlisle she moved to Alston two years ago.

Cardiff women's branch and Roath men's branch have joined forces and become a joint branch.

Successful fund raising in Dorset. Charmouth joint branch raised £115 at a spring plant sale and Chard men's branch raised £193 at a 'second hand' sale.

Thanks to Norman Brew and his wife Vera for the organisation of Notts & Derby Area's successful gathering at Ravenshead. About 170 members attended. Main speaker was Gilbert Francis, General Secretary.

Wessex District undertook the Alexandra Rose Day collection in Bournemouth. A proportion of the £314 raised will go towards Toc H work in the District.

Tea, bingo and community singing attracted 75 old people to a party arranged by Rushden Royal branch in Northamptonshire on Cup Final day. Bingo was also on the menu of the annual old people's party organised by Hayes, Kent, branch. A Beckenham concert party entertained the 80 guests.

Members in Scotland are delighted to know that Mollie Orr has been made a Member of St John in recognition of her service to the Order.

A large crowd of members and friends joined Bargoed, Glamorgan, women's branch in celebrating its 25th anniversary.

PICTUREPOINT

Top: Waiting for the 'off' in the Leigh, Lancs, branch sponsored swim. The swim raised funds for the social centre for the handicapped being built by the branch. Photo: Bolton Evening News

Centre: Methods Committee chairman Alan Brooks (right) presents a Lamp to Hugh Allen, chairman of the new St German's branch in Norfolk. Photo: Lynn News & Advertiser

Below right: Swindon District chairman David Pope explains the controls of the Chairmobile to Lorraine Chambers. As reported last month the chair was purchased for Lorraine from the proceeds of the Jack Steer Memorial Fund. Also in the picture (left to right): Les Clapham, chairman of the Beavers, the group to which Lorraine belongs; Bob Court of Chiseldon branch; and Ron Gunter, an Associate of Purton branch. Photo: Wiltshire Newspapers, Swindon.

Below: Not vagrants but fund raisers. Two of those who attended a 'tramps' supper' organised by Hythe, Kent, branch, which raised £33 towards the cost of a summer camp for children.
Photo: Folkestone & Hythe Gazette

TAKING THE AIR

Harold Fisher describes what is involved in producing a weekly review of talking books for the blind for Radio Oxford. Harold, who is himself blind, is a member of Stow-on-the-Wold branch in Gloucestershire.

On a warm autumn evening last year, Bill Moss and I sat talking at my Cotswold home near Stow-on-the-Wold. It was a Sunday. We chatted over cups of tea against the murmuring background of day-trippers returning along the busy A242. Bill Moss is a programme producer from Radio Oxford. I thought he displayed remarkable tact and patience (very necessary qualities when dealing with an unscientific type like me!) combined with a wide humanity and technical know-how.

We talked for hours on farming, the Cotswolds, music, literature, broadcasting, domestic topics, books and blind welfare. Ginger, my niece Ellen's cat, kept up a contented purring on the hearthrug. Later, Bill banished the striking clock to a distant spot in the hall, removed the telephone receiver from its holder and then explained to me the intricacies of his sophisticated equipment. He then made a 15 minute recording of the visit.

The outcome of this was an agreement under which I would provide a 15 minute review of new issues of talking books for the blind to go out on his Radio Oxford programme entitled *Your View*. This is a special programme for the blind and the partially-sighted.

Perhaps I'd better explain here what a talking-book is. The late Lord Nuffield, in one of

his inspired moments, donated a considerable sum of money for research into providing the blind with recorded literary material of all kinds. The basic idea was to produce a 'play-back' machine using the well-known principle found in all tape-recorders. The books would be recorded on magnetic tape in the form of cassettes. Being all-enclosed these are easy for blind people to handle. The cassettes are prepared by the staff of the British Talking Book Service in their own central studios. The first machines to be issued, like their cassettes, were large and heavy. Developments and improvements have led to the modern light-weight machine and cassette. The latter, in its padded plastic container, can be posted in any letter box. Even so, each cassette has six tracks on its tape, each track playing for upwards of two hours. A novel of average length can be accommodated on one cassette. Longer works employ two or more, according to need. Tolstoy's *War and Peace*, for example, employs eight cassettes and runs for a total of 79 hours.

In his book, *My Story of St Dunstan's*, the author, Lord Fraser of Lonsdale, tells of the early experiments which led to the talking book machine as we know it today.
The British Talking Book Library is based at Wembley, Middlesex. From it, the blind receive books of their own choosing. At the moment of writing there are over 2,000 titles. These are being added to all the time. The actual recordings are done by professional readers, many of them actors or BBC announcers. Many possess expert knowledge of regional accents or dialects, which are used to great effect. Many readings are masterpieces of virtuosity.

One of the problems, as mentioned to me by the chief production engineer, is the time-lag between the introduction of a new recording and its request by the user. Catalogues are, of course, issued from time to time, backed by supplementaries, but at best new books take time to work through. New subscribers are asked to select 30 titles from the catalogue. Of these, two are sent out on the 'one to wash–one to wear' principle. After reading one book it should be returned in order that another can be sent. This process continues until the list is completed.

It was with the idea of short-cutting a little of this procedure that our programme was arranged.

I am issued with four or five of the latest recordings each month. From these I prepare my script.

Now this is where the Stow branch of Toc H really comes into the picture. We are singularly fortunate in having two members, both of whom, in their separate ways, are specialists in sound-recording. Harold Plant owns expensive 'Ferrograph' equipment, and Bert England specialises in television and sound-recording generally. Together, they form a powerful team. Ten days or so before the date on which the broadcast is to go out (at present, this is at

Opposite page: Harold Plant bends over the controls and Bert England holds the mike as Harold Fisher records another programme from the make-shift studio in his living room.
Photo: Studio Five, Stow on the Wold

Top left: Bill Moss, who produces the programme for Radio Oxford.

Bottom left: A happy smile which suggests that another of Harold Fisher's weekly programmes is 'in the can'.

8 pm on the first Monday in each month, repeated at 12.45 pm the following Friday) Harold, Bert and I get together at my home at Wyck Hill Farm. I feel it is a great tribute to their sense of dedication that Harold and Bert are willing to devote their time and equipment towards the blind in this area.

The session usually starts at 7 pm. It might be thought that a 15 minute programme could be recorded in that time. I wish it were so. You would hardly believe the snags that can arise. Take our last exercise, for example. The clock was duly banished, as before; the telephone was ignored, it having been found by experience that it is often more of a nuisance off than on; the microphone and recording level had been checked and we were away. At the end of three minutes a shrill note broke in upon us, repeated at short intervals. We stopped.

'That's Keith, blowing his toy trumpet in the garden', Bert observed. It was. Keith was duly hushed, as were certain of his girl companions who were trying out creditable imitations of our ewes and lambs. We began again. My delivery is seldom fluent. Often I stumble badly. It is surprising how easy it is to say 'King Alfred' instead of 'King Arthur', to say 'David Cecil' rather than 'Henry Cecil' as one intends to, or to fluff some other important name, date or fact. However, after some 90 minutes of sweat and near-tears we have a passable recording.

My review closes with a list of the books mentioned, together with library numbers. This last detail is important. Any listener can request a copy simply by entering the number on the address-label when returning a book after reading.

When the equipment has been packed up, Ellen revives us with coffee and sandwiches. It is usually after ten pm when my colleagues leave with their equipment and the completed tape. This latter, Harold posts to Oxford the following day. During the following week Bill Moss edits and prepares it for transmission.

In giving you this 'peep behind the scenes', as it were, I am sure readers will discern how faithfully Harold and Bert live up to the Toc H injunction to 'leap with joy to any task for others'. In expressing my grateful appreciation to them I must include also my thanks to Mrs Benstead (the chief librarian) and the library staff for their ever-willing co-operation. Mrs Sutherland and Denis Freeman also deserve a word of praise for their unobtrusive help and encouragement.

Bill Moss, our producer, tells me that to the best of his knowledge ours is the only programme of its kind to go out regularly on any BBC local radio station. Perhaps I am prejudiced but I feel it would be a good thing if it could be more widely disseminated over all local stations or, better still, throughout the national BBC network.

Note: *The programme is now taking a summer break and will be resumed in the autumn.*

Obituary

We regret to announce the death of the following members:

In February: Albert Furborough (Beeston), Elizabeth J Harris (Bargoed).

In March: Walter H Arnold (Scartho), Rhoda J Masters (Hayle), Walter H Crook (East London Area), Vera E M Medina (Sydenham).

In April: Percy Bilton (Bedwas), Tom Cook (Accrington), Elizabeth Farmer (Netherton), Gilbert G Venn (Milton), Ralph Warne (Northern Area), George A Webster (Rhiwbina).

In May: Thomas L Bartlett (South Western Area), Dorothy Corker (Wolverhampton), William A Dodd (Central), Trevor Gwyn-Jones (Marshalwick), Mary McCutcheon (Bargoed), Randall W Roach (Troon), Edward Worley (Vancouver).

We give thanks for their lives.

Next month

The Boys' Brigade invites co-operation from Toc H.

A personal reminiscence of Tubby by writer Robert Hughes.

Some comments on the current dispute with Iceland by Alec Churcher.

Small Advertisements

Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) by the first day of the month preceding publication. The charge is 3p a word (minimum 30p). *Point Three* Magazine, Toc H Headquarters, 42 Crutched Friars, London EC3N 2AL. Telephone 01-709 0472.

RAISE FUNDS QUICKLY, EASILY. Superb ball-pens, combs, key fobs, diaries, etc, gold stamped to your requirements. Details: Northern Novelties, Bradford BD2 3AF.

Have you seen the great improvements recently made at **WARDEN MANOR**, including H & C in some bedrooms, new roof and new tennis court? Historic manor house (recorded history dating from 13th century), set in unspoilt country near sea edge. 1973 extended season, vacancies June 30-July 28, August 4-September 1, September 8-15. Excellent Toc H fellowship. Cost £10.75 to £12.75 weekly (children £8.50) plus VAT; includes full board, 4 meals daily. Tennis, table tennis, putting, etc and all entertainments at Manor are free. Bathing is possible at Warden Bay nearby. Conferences welcomed mid-March/mid-June and mid-September/mid-December. Write John Cole, Warden Manor, Eastchurch, Kent ME12 4HD. (Tel. Eastchurch 238).

IF TOURING KENT or CONTINENT bb offered £1.50. Also **CARAVAN SITE.** F Dives, 'Sissenden', Coopers Lane, Sellinge, Ashford, Kent. Tel: 030-381 3217.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE. Bed and breakfast. Near A370 and M5. H and C. Car space. Mrs B E Green, 'Mon Abri', Ebdon Road, Worle. Tel: Weston-super-Mare 21957.

BRUGES, BELGIUM. Hotel Jacobs (established 50 years) welcomes Toc H parties and individual visitors to this lovely old city within easy reach of other famous cities of art, and of the coast. Comfortable, modernised hotel. Quiet situation. Parking. English spoken. Strongly recommended. Bed and breakfast only. Mr Jules Lietaert, HOTEL JACOBS, Baliestraat 1. Bruges 8000. Telephone: (050)398 31/32.

NORTH BUCKINGHAMSHIRE. For properties in this area, between £9,000 and £25,000, contact Bonner & Son, Chartered Surveyors, 12 Market Square, Buckingham MK18 1NR. (Telephone 2301)

COLLECTORS: A. O. Baxter, 253 Chester Road, Macclesfield, would like to get in touch with collectors of (1) flags sold in the street for charities; (2) all matters relating to Royal National Life Boat Institute.

Tubby Talking

Have you got your copy of this unique recording yet?
12 inch long-playing record, sold in attractive sleeve, with full colour photograph of the Founder Padre.
Only £1.50, including postage & packing.
From Toc H Publications,
1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT.

Published by Toc H, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Buckinghamshire HP22 6BT and printed in England by Loxley Bros Ltd, Sheffield and London.

TOC H

cotswold festival

Patrons: The Hon Angus Ogilvy, Lord Dulverton, the Bishop of Worcester, Sir Gordon Russell, Miss Janet Suzman.

On Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd September 1973

AT DOR KNAP, BROADWAY, WORCESTERSHIRE

Saturday:		Sunday:	
2 pm	Blockley Brass Band	2 pm	Lythwood Players
3.15	Scottish Dancing	3.15	"An Hour of Folk" with The Gleaners and Velvet Mist
4.45	New Anglian Singers	4.45	Final Concert - New Anglian Singers
7 pm	"Antony and Cleopatra"		

IN THE NATURAL AMPHITHEATRE OVERLOOKING THE VALE OF EVESHAM

Also:

Poetry Recitals in the Conference Room on both days

Demonstrations of Spinning and Miniature Model-Making

Exhibition of International Dolls, Jewelry, Arts and Crafts and Paintings by Toc H members; and locally designed furniture

Grounds open from 1 pm. Free parking

Light refreshments available

Tickets: 50p per day (inclusive of all concerts, etc.), children under 14 half price from Toc H Cotswold Festival, Dor Knap, Broadway, Worcs.

In the event of bad weather performances will continue indoors